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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1955

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health :

J. TOLLAND, L.R.C.P.Ed., L.R.C.S.Ed., L.R.F.P.S.Glas.,
D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Sanitary Surveyor :

G. K. THORLEY, M.R.San.I.,
Cert. Meat Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

B. LIGHTFOOT, M.R.San.I.,
Cert. Meat Inspector.

Clerk :

E. WILDON.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1955

*The Chairman and Members of the
Newcastle-under-Lyme Rural District Council.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1955 on similar lines to last year's Report.

There was a decrease of 42 in the number of births compared with 1954, and an increase of 11 in the number of deaths. Diseases of the heart and blood vessels were responsible for 52.3% of the deaths (102 out of the total of 195), with cancer causing 16.4% (32 cases.)

The infantile mortality rate (12.87) showed a substantial decrease compared with the previous year (36.36) and is below the average for England and Wales (24.9). Of the 3 infantile deaths, none could be regarded as possibly preventable.

There was a great reduction in the number of cases of Measles notified, 72 compared with 345 in 1954. This decrease is in conformity with the normal incidence of the disease. There was a short epidemic during the middle of the year, mainly confined to Betley, Madeley, and Tyrley Parishes. The number of cases of Whooping Cough decreased from 120 in 1953 and 48 in 1954 to 2 only in 1955. This marked reduction over the last 2 years may at least in part reflect the increasing frequency of immunisation against this disease.

Progress continued to be made in connection with post-war housing. This subject is referred to later in the Report, where it may be seen that 72 Council Houses were erected during the year and a total of 554 had been completed since the end of the war. The change in the general Government housing policy and the direction of the drive more specifically against sub-standard property had no effect on this year's programme.

Work on the proposed new sewage disposal works at Madeley was practically complete, and the completion of the sewerage scheme in the parish of Audley was in progress.

No further progress had been made with regard to schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal at Betley and Loggerheads.

I would like to express my appreciation of the assistance given to me by Mr. G. K. Thorley, Chief Sanitary Inspector ; and Mr. F. W. Ramm, Clerk of the Council, in the preparation of this report.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

*Council Offices, Sidmouth Avenue,
The Brampton, Newcastle, Staffs.*

(Signed) J. TOLLAND,
Medical Officer of Health.
3rd August, 1956.

Section A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area : 40,121 acres.

Rateable Value (1/4/56) : £135,790.

Sum represented by the penny rate : (estimated for year 1956/57) £495.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population as at June 30th, 1955 : 17,650.

Number of inhabited houses in the area as at 31st December, 1955 : 5,458.

Table 1 shows the distribution of these houses by parishes :

TABLE 1

<i>Parish</i>				<i>Parish</i>			
Ashley	..	..	393	Madeley	..	..	1,022
Audley	..	..	2,661	Maer	..	..	183
Balterley	..	..	68	Mucklestone	..	..	138
Betley	..	..	216	Tyrley	..	..	242
Chorlton	..	..	127	Whitmore	..	..	179
Keele ..	..	..	229				

Of the total of 5,458 houses, 803 (14.7%) are Council Houses.

In addition, there were a number of occupied caravans and other forms of dwellings as follows :—

TABLE 2

<i>Parish</i>				<i>Parish</i>			
Ashley	..	..	10	Madeley	..	..	6
Audley	..	..	7	Maer	..	..	3
Balterley	..	..	2	Mucklestone	..	..	1
Betley	..	..	4	Tyrley	..	..	1
Chorlton	..	..	55*				

* Includes 16 occupied as permanent dwellings.

TABLE 3

Vital Statistics

Newcastle-u-Lyme R.D. England and Wales
Rates per 1,000 estimated Population

<i>Live Births :</i>		M.	F.		
Total ..	233	126	107	13.20	15.0
Legitimate	224	121	103	12.69	—*
Illegitimate	9	5	4	0.51	—*
<i>Stillbirths :</i>		<i>Rates per 1,000 Total live and Stillbirths</i>			
Total ..	6	3	3	25.10	23.1
Legitimate	5	3	2	20.92	—*
Illegitimate	1	—	1	4.18	—*

The birth rate crude and corrected is similar, namely 13.20

Rates per 1,000 estimated Population

<i>Deaths :</i>		M.	F.		
Total ..	195	97	98	11.05 (Crude)	11.7
				10.60 (Corrected)	

Rates per 1,000 related live births

Deaths under One Year of Age :

		M.	F.		
Total ..	3	1	2	12.87	24.9
Legitimate	3	1	2	12.87	—*
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—*

Deaths under Four Weeks of Age :

		M.	F.		
Total ..	2	—	2	8.57	17.3
Legitimate	2	—	2	8.57	—*
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—*

* Rates not available.

Summary of Deaths of Children under 1 year of Age

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Cause of Death</i>
F.	3 days	Haemorrhagic disease of Newborn.
M.	1 hr.	Prematurity.
M.	6 months	Congenital Heart Disease.

Table 4 shows the Infantile Mortality Rate for the last eight years in Newcastle-under-Lyme Rural District and England and Wales, and the average rates during this period.

TABLE 4			
<i>Year</i>		<i>Newcastle-u-Lyme R.D.</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
1948	..	36	34
1949	..	20	32
1950	..	25	30
1951	..	9	30
1952	..	32	27
1953	..	40	26
1954	..	36	25
1955	..	12	24
		—	—
Averages	..	26	28
		—	—

Employment Conditions.

The Manager of the Employment Exchange, Newcastle, states:—

“ A high level of employment was maintained in the Newcastle Area throughout 1955, unemployment being as low as 1% to 1.5%. This satisfactory position in industry was maintained, despite an anxious period when the railway strike threatened to cause some dislocation and unemployment.

An increase in the number unemployed occurred in the Building Trade during February, when the severe weather made outside working very difficult. Apart from these happenings and some small redundancies here and there, there was a fairly stable condition of full employment. Unfortunately, a stubborn, hard core of disabled and less fit men still remain on the register of unemployed and, with a lack of local vacancies, it is increasingly difficult to find suitable work for them.”

Section B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Examination of samples of water etc., is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service and the Public Analyst, Chemical Laboratory, Stafford.

2. Services provided by the Staffordshire County Council.

The Ambulance Service, District Home Nursing and Midwifery Service, and Domestic Help Scheme are operated by the Staffordshire County Council.

The Ambulance Depot for the Area is situated at Newcastle Road, Knutton, Newcastle, Staffs., and the telephone number is Newcastle 69201.

Details of District Nurses etc., are as follows :—

<i>Name & Address</i>	<i>Appointment</i>	<i>Area Covered</i>	<i>Telephone No.</i>
Nurse M. Holleran, 8, Bevan Place, Madeley.	District Nurse/ Midwife	Balterley, Betley, Keele, Madeley.	Madeley 279
Nurse S. Jones, 9, Laverock Grove, Madeley.	Ditto	Ditto	Madeley 217
Nurse J. I. Dobson, 8, Sandy Lane, Red Bull.	District Nurse, Health Visitor, School Nurse, Midwife.	Ashley (part) Mucklestone, Tyrley.	Hales 214
Nurse L. Braddick, Blackbrook.	Ditto	Ashley (part), Chapel and Hill Chorlton, Maer.	Whitmore 214
Nurse M. Davies, Brookside, Whitmore.	Ditto	Whitmore (also part of Stone R.D.)	Whitmore 266
Nurse M. E. Graham, The Studio, Audley.	District Nurse	Whole Audley Parish.	Audley 287
Nurse H. E. Johnson, 177, High Street, Halmerend.	Midwife.	Ditto	Audley 273
Mrs. I. M. Winter, 21, Vernon Ave., Audley. (replaces Nurse Johnson from 1/8/56).	Ditto	Ditto	
Nurse A. Eardley, 6, Queen Street, Audley.	Relief Midwife	Ditto	

<i>Name & Address</i>	<i>Appointment</i>	<i>Area Covered</i>	<i>Telephone No.</i>
Miss P. Owen, The Moss, Madeley.	Health Visitor, School Nurse.	Balterley, Betley, Keele, Madeley, Alsagers Bank, Halmerend, Scot Hay.	
Miss F. A. Bedson, "Lindi," Hall Street, Audley.	Ditto	Audley, Bignall End, Miles Green, Wood Lane, Apedale.	

In addition the County Council also operates the under-mentioned Infant Welfare Centres :—

<i>Centres</i>	<i>Sessions</i>	<i>Doctor in Attendance</i>
Central Methodist School, Halmerend.	Wednesdays 2—5 p.m.	Dr. J. Cash
Council Offices, Audley.	Thursdays 2—5 p.m.	Dr. E. M. Prendiville.
Village Hall, Madeley.	Tuesdays 2—5 p.m.	Dr. J. Cash.

3. **Hospitals.**

There is one hospital in the District for treatment of Tuberculosis, at Loggerheads.

The District is also served by hospitals administered by the Stoke-on-Trent Hospital Management Committee in Newcastle and Stoke-on-Trent.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The greater part of the District is supplied by the Staffs. Potteries Water Board, and a considerable area is supplied by the Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board from the pumping station at Bearstone. In addition there are three other supplies, *viz* : estate mains supply at Whitmore and Hales, and the supply from the Market Drayton Water Company.

TABLE 5

Summary of Results of Analyses of Water Supplies taken in the Area in 1955.

				<i>Bacteriological</i>		<i>Chemical</i>	
				<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>
1.	<i>Public Mains :</i>	..	..	—	—	—	—
2.	<i>Other Public Supplies :</i>						
(a)	Keele Parish	..	..	—	2	2	—
(b)	Madeley Parish	..	..	—	2	—	2
(c)	Whitmore Parish	..	..	1	—	1	—
				—	—	—	—
				1	4	3	2
				—	—	—	—
3.	<i>Private Supplies :</i>						
(a)	Ashley Parish	..	..	1	—	1	—
(b)	Tyrley Parish	..	..	2	—	2	—
(c)	Whitmore Parish	..	..	2	3	4	3
				—	—	—	—
				5	3	7	3
				—	—	—	—
<i>Total Number of Analyses :</i>							
	Public Mains	..	..	—	—	—	—
	Other Public Supplies	..	..	1	4	3	2
	Private Supplies	..	..	5	3	7	3
				—	—	—	—
				6	7	10	5
				—	—	—	—

Of the unsatisfactory samples, those referred to in Sec. 2 (b) were taken from a pump at Moor Hall Cottages, Madeley and an agreement was reached with the Staffs. Potteries Water Board for an extension of the main to serve these and other cottages adjoining. One of those referred to in Sec. 3 (c) was taken from a disused well at Shut Lane Head Cottage, Whitmore at the request of the owner, who was informed of the result.

Occupants of houses deriving supplies from the other unsatisfactory sources were advised as to the precautions to be taken.

Work was commenced during the year on an extension of the water main from Seabridge to serve the village of Butterson. This supply will eventually serve twenty houses and a school.

The Engineer and Manager, Staffs. Potteries Water Board has supplied the following information with regard to water supplies from the Board.

“ The water is derived from deep wells and boreholes sunk in the New Red Sandstone rock.

During 1955 bacteriological examinations made numbered 151, of which 79 were untreated and 72 of chloraminated water. None of these samples showed Faecal Coli reactions or Clostridium Welchii reactions. All were certified as conforming to the highest standards of bacterial purity, indicating a water pure and wholesome and suitable for purposes of public and domestic supply.

Twelve samples were chemically analysed and from a chemical aspect these, too, were certified pure and wholesome. The water is of a moderate hardness ; the saline and mineral constituents in solution are moderate ; it is of neutral reaction and free from metals. The water is not plumbo-solvent and the organic quality is of the highest standards.

Softening of the water is not undertaken.

The consumption of water for domestic purposes, unmetered trade and waste in the whole of the Board's area of supply for the year 1955 averaged 27.53 gallons per head per day.”

Particulars by Parishes of the number of houses in the District supplied from piped mains were given in the Annual Report for 1948. The total percentage supplied in 1955 is estimated to be about 98.

The number of houses supplied from stand-pipes is as follows :—

<i>Parish</i>				
Ashley	..	..	..	8
Audley	..	..	..	3
Tyrley	..	..	..	8
				—
				19
				—

With regard to the Ministry of Health's requirements that the number of dwelling-houses and population supplied from public mains (a) direct to houses, and (b) by means of stand-pipes, should be given, it may be seen from the above that the proportion supplied from stand-pipes is negligible.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Audley Scheme.

Work was completed on extensions to the sewerage and sewage disposal scheme at Audley, new sewers being laid to serve Alsagers Bank, Halmerend, and Miles Green. The work on the conversion of privies was well advanced, approx. 200 water closets being installed.

Madeley Scheme.

The work on the new sewage disposal plant at Madeley was practically complete. The humus tanks, pump houses, detritus and stormwater tanks, and the 12 bacteria beds were constructed.

Other Parishes.

No further progress was made during the year in connection with the proposed schemes for sewerage and sewage disposal at Betley and Loggerheads.

Night Soil Disposal.

This service was continued quite satisfactorily throughout the year and apart from the scarcity of suitable disposal sites, no serious difficulties were encountered.

The cleansing of septic tanks on the Council's smaller housing estates were also undertaken.

Refuse Disposal.

The Council's scheme for scavenging in every Parish continued to work satisfactorily.

Rodent Control.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, under which responsibility was placed on Local Authorities, came into operation in April, 1950.

Disinfestation was continued throughout the year by the Council's rodent operative at tip-sites, schools, canteens and other premises with highly satisfactory results.

In the case of private properties and schools, the cost of the work was reclaimed from the owners.

<i>Number of Treatments Carried Out.</i>				
<i>Private Houses</i>	<i>Shops</i>	<i>Schools and School Canteens</i>	<i>Tip Sites</i>	<i>Council Houses</i>
9	2	11	86	1
<i>Cinema, Audley</i>	<i>Council Stores, Audley</i>	<i>Sewage Disposal Works</i>	<i>Sewers, Audley</i>	<i>Brook Course</i>
1	4	13	1	1

Section D

HOUSING.

TABLE 6
HOUSING STATISTICS:

1.	<i>Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—</i>		
	(i) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	136
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose ..	169
	(ii) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	97
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	97
	(iii)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	17
	(iv)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	88
2.	<i>Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notices :—</i>		
		Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	82
3.	<i>Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—</i>		
	A.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
	(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
	(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—	
	(a)	By owners	—
	(b)	By local authority in default of owners ..	—

B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	—
(b)	By local authority in default of owners ..	—
C.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	5
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	3
D.	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(i)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	—
(ii)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—
4.	<i>Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.</i>	
(i) (a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	27
(b)	Number of families dwelling therein	35
(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein	206
(ii)	Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(iii) (a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	7
(b)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	46
(iv)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Part IV. Overcrowding.

(Note) Accurate figures of statutory or "near-statutory" cases of overcrowding are not available, and, since, changes do not always come to notice, no reliable assessment can be made. The figure of seven cases shown in Table 6 as abated is likely to be an underestimate.

HOUSING SURVEY

The total number of houses inspected during the year was 97. Table 7 gives details of the numbers inspected under the categories suggested in the Third Report of the Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee published in May, 1944.

TABLE 7

1.	Satisfactory in all respects	..	..	..	..	22
2.	Minor Defects	..	..	..	..	10
3.	Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement..					48
4.	Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers') Act	..	..	..	..	—
5.	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost					17
						—
						97
						—

The County Joint Housing Advisory Committee issued a detailed statement of suggested standards of fitness in June, 1945, and this has formed the broad basis of the Survey in this area.

The total numbers of houses inspected since the commencement of the present survey are shown in Table 8.

TABLE 8

1.	Satisfactory in all respects	..	..	..	..	1,189
2.	Minor defects	..	..	..	..	1,095
3.	Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement					1,318
4.	Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers') Act	..	..	..	..	2
5.	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost					250
						—
						3,854
						—

Particulars of the total number of houses in the District are given in Section "A."

SLUM CLEARANCE.

HOUSING ACT, 1936 : PARTS II AND III

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954 : SECTION I

In accordance with the terms of the above-mentioned Acts, a survey of houses in the area was carried out and proposals placed before the Council. The estimate of the problem and the time taken to deal with this were approved and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The proposed programme is set out hereunder :—

TABLE 9

Total number of permanent dwellings in the local authority's area	5,435
<i>Part 1. The total problem.</i>	
(i) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of section 9 of the housing repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under section 11 or section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936	442
(ii) Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (i)	8
<i>Part 2. Orders already made, etc.</i>	
(iii) Number of houses in (i) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the local authority	35
(iv) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative	Nil
<i>Part 3. Action in the first five years.</i>	
(v) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years	Nil
(vi) Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister	240
(vii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, for temporary accommodation	Nil

(viii)	Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be demolished in the five years	..	..	..	240
(ix)	Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	..	..	..	102

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1949

Details of improvement grant applications for the year are given below :—

<i>No. of Appns. dealt with</i>	<i>No. of appns. refused</i>	<i>No. of appns. withdrawn</i>	<i>Number granted Owner/ Others Occupiers</i>	
21	6	1	10	4
<i>Total Value of work involved</i>		<i>Total Value of Grants</i>		
£6,082 2s. 8d.		£2,600 6s. 2d.		

Private Building.

Forty houses were completed during the year, making a total of 174 since the end of the War.

By the courtesy of the Clerk of the Council, I am enabled to present the following statements (Tables 10 and 11).

From Table 10 it may be seen that 72 houses were erected during the year, and a total of 554 had been erected since the end of the War.

TABLE 10—S T A T E M E N T

Of the total number of POST-WAR HOUSES erected as at 31st December, 1955

Parish and Site	No. of houses completed				Types				No. of Bedrooms				Parish Totals			
	1/4/46 to 31/12/54		1/1/55 to 31/12/55		Total	Airey	Aluminium	Swedish Timber	Traditional	1	2	3		4		
	1/4/46 to 31/12/54	1/1/55 to 31/12/55	1/4/46 to 31/12/54	1/1/55 to 31/12/55												
AUDLEY :																
Halmerend ..	8	2	10	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	2	8	—	AUDLEY		
Wereton ..	196	2	198	50	—	—	—	148	4	22	169	3	294			
Wood Lane ..	20	36	56	—	—	—	—	56	—	14	42	—			ASHLEY	
Alsagers Bank ..	18	—	18	—	—	—	—	18	—	10	8	—				42
Bignall End ..	12	—	12	—	—	—	—	12	—	4	8	—					BETLEY
ASHLEY :														16		
Charnes Road ..	2	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	CHORLTON			
Sovereign Lane ..	40	—	40	24	—	—	—	16	—	8	32	—			KEELE	
BETLEY :																8
Church Lane ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—					6
East Lawns ..	14	—	14	—	—	—	—	14	—	8	6	—		2		
CHORLTON :													6			
Chapel Chorlton ..	6	—	6	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	4	2			8	
KEELE :																158
Quarry Bank ..	8	—	8	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	8	—				
MADELEY :														12		
Onneley ..	4	—	4	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	4	—	MUCKLESTONE			
Furnace Lane ..	12	—	12	—	—	—	—	12	12	—	—	—			8	
Bevan Place ..	26	—	26	—	26	—	—	—	—	26	—	—				8
The Moss ..	84	32	116	22	—	—	—	94	—	50	62	4					2
MAER :														TOTAL		
Aston ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	554			
Blackbrook ..	10	—	10	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	10	—			385	
MUCKLESTONE :																9
Knighton ..	8	—	8	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	8	—					TOTAL
TYRLEY :														554		
Almington ..	8	—	8	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	8	—	385			
WHITMORE :															9	
Acton ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—				554
TOTALS ..	482	72	554	96	26	12	420	16	144	385	9	554					554

Although there were no houses in course of construction as at 31st December, 1955, 48 houses were commenced at Wereton early in January, 1956.

Table 11 shows the total number of houses built or acquired by the Council under all the Housing Acts :—

TABLE 11				
Pre-War	..	..	..	210
War-time	..	..	..	6
Post-War	..	..	..	554
				<hr/>
				770
Houses acquired at Halmerend in 1950			..	33
				<hr/>
				803
				<hr/>

Envisaged — 102 houses at Wereton
 30 ,, Hill Chorlton
 108 ,, Madeley Moss

The numbers of housing applicants by parishes at 31st December, 1955, were as follows :—

Ashley	..	..	..	25
Audley	..	..	..	200
Betley	..	..	..	21
Chorlton and Whitmore	..			32
Keele	..	..	..	7
Madeley	..	..	..	80
Maer	..	..	..	16
Mucklestone	..	..	..	13
Tyrley	..	..	..	25
				<hr/>
				419
				<hr/>

Section E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Mr. G. K. Thorley, Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows :—

“ Meat.

There are eleven private slaughterhouses in the district, four only of which are licensed.

Slaughtering was carried out regularly at these premises each week ; the number of cattle, sheep and pigs killed up to the end of the year and details of condemned carcasses and offal are shown overleaf :—

TABLE 12
Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	154	21	9	536	408	—
Number inspected	154	21	9	536	408	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i> Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	27	3	1	150	6	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	17.5	14.3	11.1	27.9	1.4	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i> Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	33	4	—	—	22	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	21.4	19.0	—	—	5.6	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Other Foodstuffs Condemned.

6 lbs.— Corned Beef

$\frac{1}{4}$ lb.— Salmon (tinned)

Food Premises Generally.

Routine inspections of food premises were continued throughout the year, special attention being paid to the maintenance of hygienic conditions in connection with the storage and preparation of foods.

Sixty-nine inspections were made. Improvements were effected in six cases as a result of informal action.

No new food shops were opened during the year.

Ice Cream.

The total number of registered premises is 64, three of whom manufacture and the remainder sell pre-packed ice-cream.

Tubercle Bacilli in Milk.

During the year the County Medical Officer of Health reported that tubercle bacilli had been found in eight samples of milk obtained from premises of producers in the District.

Notices under paragraph 20, Part VII, of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, prohibiting the retail sale of untreated milk from these premises were at once served, and arrangements were made whereby the milk was heat-treated and a supply afforded for the retailer's customers.

Letters were also sent to producers regarding the danger to their own families, or employees', in the consumption of milk that had not been heat-treated.

Investigations were carried out in each case by the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and after the periods necessary for the performance of tests the milk from these premises was certified to be non-tuberculous, and the retail sale of non-heat-treated milk again permitted."

Section F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS OTHER DISEASES.

The following Table shows the number of cases notified during the last five years, together with the average numbers during this period.

TABLE 13.
(Civilians Only)

*Average
Numbers
for five
years*

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	
Scarlet Fever	35	23	3	3	9	14.6
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	26	72	120	48	2	53.4
Measles	99	243	36	345	72	159.0
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	3	10	—	2	3	3.6
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	1	0.2
*Acute Pneumonia ..	10	4	9	8	—	6.2
Dysentery	1	1	1	13	—	3.2
Meningococcal Infection	—	2	1	1	1	1.0
Erysipelas	6	4	3	4	—	3.4
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	3	1	2	1	—	1.4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food-Poisoning	—	2	1	4	1	1.6
Tuberculosis :						
Pulmonary	11	11	7	10	7	9.2
Non-Pulmonary ..	—	2	2	4	4	2.4

* Notifiable cases only, viz., primary or influenzal.

TABLE 14

Analysis by Age-Groups and Sex of cases of Notifiable Infectious
Disease.

(Civilians only)

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>		<i>Whooping Cough</i>		<i>Measles</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Under 1	—	—	1	—	—	1
1—2	—	—	—	—	2	5
3—4	1	2	—	—	9	7
5—9	2	2	—	1	18	28
10—14	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—24	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 and over	—	—	—	—	1	1
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	5	1	1	30	42

Age Periods	<i>Paratyphoid Fevers</i>		<i>Food Poisoning</i>		<i>Meningococcal Infection</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	—	—	—	—	I	—
15—44	—	I	—	I	—	—
45—64	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	I	—	I	I	—

Age Periods	<i>Acute Poliomyelitis</i>			
	<i>Paralytic</i>		<i>Non-Paralytic</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 ..	—	—	—	I
3 ..	—	I	—	—
5 ..	—	—	—	—
10 ..	—	—	—	—
15 ..	—	I	—	—
25 and over ..	—	—	—	—
Age unknown ..	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	—	2	—	I

TABLE 15

Rates of Incidence in the District of Certain Infectious Diseases during 1955.

<i>Notifications :—</i>						<i>Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population</i>	
Typhoid Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	0.00	
Paratyphoid Fevers .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	0.06	
Meningococcal Infection .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	0.06	
Scarlet Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	0.51	
Whooping Cough .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	0.11	
Diphtheria .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	0.00	
Erysipelas .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	0.00	
Smallpox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	0.00	
Measles .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	4.07	
Pneumonia .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	0.00	
*Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	0.00	
Acute Poliomyelitis—Paralytic .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	0.11	
—Non-paralytic .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	0.06	
Food Poisoning .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	0.06	

* Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still).

The following notes give some particulars of the incidences etc., of infectious diseases :—

(a) **Notifiable Infectious Disease.**

Paratyphoid Fever.

The case notified was a girl aged 22 years, at Bignall End, but in spite of thorough investigation the source of the infection was not found.

Scarlet Fever.

Nine cases were notified.

The disease continued to be of mild type.

Diphtheria.

There was no case notified.

The practice of immunisation has resulted practically in the eradication of the disease, and it may well be characterised as one of the great triumphs of preventive medicine. It is, however, essential that both immunisation in infancy and re-immunisation when commencing school should be carried out in at least 80% of child population, if we are to remain free from this scourge.

Whooping Cough

There were only two cases notified during the year, a decrease of 46 compared with 1954. There was no death.

The Staffordshire County Council approved a scheme for Immunisation against Whooping Cough in 1953, and a suitable vaccine is now available at that Council's Welfare Clinics in the district.

Measles

72 cases were notified, a decrease of 273 compared with 1954. There was no death.

Poliomyelitis

Of the three cases occurring in the area, the first case was a Swiss girl, aged 18 years, acting as a domestic servant to a family in Keele Parish. It was quite clear this girl contracted infection in the Barnsley area, where there had been an outbreak. The second case was a direct contact in the same family, fortunately non-paralytic.

In the third case, a child of 3 years, diagnosis was delayed due to the mildness of the child's illness, preceding mild paralysis. It was not possible in this case to find the source of infection.

Food Poisoning.

One case of Food Poisoning was notified, a woman in the Baldwins Gate area. It was obvious in this case that the source of infection was food eaten whilst on holiday in the South of France.

(b) *Non-Notifiable Infectious Disease*

Accurate records of this type of infectious disease are, of course, not available. Information provided by the Head Teachers of schools nevertheless gives indications as to the locality of certain infections during the periods when schools are open. The Co-operation of Head-Teachers continued to be of great value.

TUBERCULOSIS

TABLE 16

New Cases and Mortality during 1955.

Age Periods	NEW CASES					DEATHS			
	Males		Females			Males		Females	
	Respir- atory	Non- Respir- atory	Respir- atory	Non- Respir- atory	Respir- atory	Respir- atory	Non- Respir- atory	Respir- atory	Non- Respir- atory
Under 5 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 ..	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 ..	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—44 ..	1	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—
45—64 ..	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
65 and over ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	3	1	4	3	3	—	2	—	—

TABLE 17

Incidence and Numbers of Deaths during the Last Ten Years

Year	NEW CASES			DEATHS	
	Respiratory	Non- Respiratory	Respiratory	Non- Respiratory	Respiratory
1946 ..	10	5	4	1	
1947 ..	10	4	8	1	
1948 ..	11	1	10	1	
1949 ..	18	5	5	—	
1950 ..	9	3	5	1	
1951 ..	6	5	3	—	
1952 ..	11	2	1	—	
1953 ..	7	2	3	—	
1954 ..	10	5	4	2	
1955 ..	7	4	5	—	
Totals ..	99	36	48	6	
Averages	9.9	3.6	4.8	0.6	

TABLE 18

**Incidence Rates and Death Rates of Pulmonary Tuberculosis
in the District during the last Ten Years.**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Incidence Rate of Pulmonary Cases (Number of New cases per 1,000 Population)</i>			<i>Death Rate of Pulmonary Cases (Deaths per 1,000 Population).</i>
1946	0.62			0.25
1947	0.60			0.48
1948	0.66			0.60
1949	1.07			0.30
1950	0.53			0.30
1951	0.64			0.17
1952	0.76			0.06
1953	0.52			0.17
1954	0.56			0.23
1955	0.39			0.28
Averages	0.64			0.28

It may be seen from Table 18 that as compared with 1954 the incidence rate of pulmonary cases shows a decrease.

With modern methods of treatment, Tuberculosis is less of a medical problem, but remains a grave social problem, with particular regard to the questions of suitable housing of active and infective cases.

TABLE 19

CAUSES OF DEATH

in Newcastle-under-Lyme Rural District in 1954

						<i>Crude Death Rates per 1,000 population</i>
			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>		
	All Causes	97	98			11.05
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	1			0.11
2.	Tuberculosis, Other	0	0			0.00
3.	Syphilitic Disease	0	2			0.11
4.	Diphtheria	0	0			0.00
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0			0.00
6.	Meningococcal Infections	0	0			0.00
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0			0.00
8.	Measles	0	0			0.00

				<i>Crude Death Rates per 1,000 population</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>		
9. Other infective and parasytic diseases	0	0		0.00
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	3		0.45
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	5	1		0.34
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	0	1		0.06
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	0		0.00
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	11		0.96
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ..	0	1		0.06
16. Diabetes	0	1		0.06
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	10		1.19
18. Coronary disease, angina ..	16	18		1.93
19. Hypertension, with heart disease	3	2		0.28
20. Other heart disease	15	21		2.04
21. Other circulatory disease ..	4	2		0.34
22. Influenza	1	2		0.17
23. Pneumonia	1	1		0.11
24. Bronchitis	7	4		0.62
25. Other disease of respiratory system	3	0		0.17
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	0		0.17
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	1		0.06
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ..	0	1		0.06
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ..	1	—		0.06
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	0		0.00
31. Congenital malformations ..	1	0		0.06
32. Other defined and undefined diseases	5	12		0.96
33. Motor vehicle accidents ..	1	1		0.11
34. All other accidents	8	2		0.57
35. Suicide	0	0		0.00
36. Homicide and operations of war	0	0		0.00

The figures in Table 18 are those supplied by the Registrar-General, who states that the classification of some deaths is modified in the light of fuller information obtained from the certifying practitioner in response to special inquiries.

This possible source of discrepancy between the figures given in Table 19 and those in the body of the Report must be borne in mind with regard to the causes of death.

TABLE 20

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in Respect of
the Year 1955 for the Rural District of Newcastle-under-Lyme
in the County of Stafford.**

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act,
1937 and 1948

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspec- tions</i>	<i>Number of Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	7	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	17	11	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	26	18	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which Defects were Found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. Inspec- tor</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspec- tor</i>	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ..	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ..					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	3	—	1	—

PART 8 OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>No. of out-workers in Aug. list requ'd by Sect. 110 (1) (c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecu- tions for failing to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prosecu- tions</i>
Wearing Apparel making etc.	1	—	—	—	—	—

Mr. G. K. Thorley, Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows :—

“ The few factories in the District generally are in fairly good condition. These are mainly brick and tile factories, of which there are five, two only of which are in operation ; six gravel workings, and one colliery which is provided with modern pit-head baths and canteen facilities.

A number of smaller factories are in operation in the District, including a timber mill, small pottery factory and a nylon hose factory.

Defects found as a result of routine inspection were mostly of a minor nature.”

